

WEST HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting: May 24, 2005, West Harrison Fire House

Attendance: 51

Fred Sciliano opened the meeting at 7:30 and thanked everyone for coming.

Jeff LaGrotte gave the treasury report: \$2500 collected in dues and donations – half is from donations.

Fred reported that we were using an incorrect address for our mailing box and corrected it for the membership, apologizing for the mistake: 21 Taylor Square, PMB 111, West Harrison, NY.

The **Minutes** of the meeting of April 21 were corrected: The Seniors Committee report of April 14, that was given at that meeting was not included. (The full report is attached to these minutes). The corrected minutes were approved.

Gregg Rosenberg reported that the WHNA website is up and running: www.whnainc.org. It will be very useful to the membership. Everyone should visit it. Check for meeting notices and various useful information. **Fred** complimented Gregg on all the hard work to get this done and keep it running.

Membership Committee: Lisa Fallaice Sciliano reported on the membership drive. A letter is being prepared for mailing in a few weeks to that West Harrison community.

Traffic & Safety Committee: Fred(for Geri) – the town board passed a resolution to have all trucks with plows off the streets by April 15; speed monitoring sign was put up on Lake St. and White Plains Ave.

Public Works Committee: Lisa – there is an upcoming committee meeting with Bob Wasp and sanitation and highway will be discussed among other things.

Seniors Committee: Ro Verano – the committee met at the White Plains senior center and was given a complete review of the program and a tour by the director of the center. They found out about the subsidized lunch program and on-site co-ordinated services, and available grants, and all the activities that they offer. The committees main goal is to get our town board assistance for a meal program and the hiring of assistants for a daily program at the Mintzer Center. They will prepare a census to poll the residents. In June they will visit the Rye Brook Senior Center that has a differently funded meal program. (A summarized report is attached to these minutes.)

Fund Raising Committee: Mario Gallo needs members to join him and ideas for fund raisers. He would like to plan a dinner dance and a cook book.

Parks & Recreation Committee: Charlie Russo – he and members of the WHNA board met with the Mayor and the architectural consultants and other town officials who reviewed the park renovation and streetscape plans and answered questions. It is a work in progress.

Planning and Zoning Committee: Fred reported on a change to the building code. They are reducing lot coverage in the B zone, a 2 family zone, by 30 or 35%. On corner lots the code will change to 20 ft. set back from front and side.

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 16th.

Fred introduced **Maria Polera** who made a presentation on behalf of Operation Support Our Troops, a national organization with a local chapter run by a White Plains Doctor and other local mothers of troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, who collect various supplies that the troops will enjoy or give them a little comfort.

Fred has been in contact with Nita Lowey's office and they are still trying to find a suitable site for a post office.

He reminded the membership that complaint forms are available.

He announced that the fire department invites everyone to their annual Memorial Services on Thursday at 7:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 and the attendance was given over to a **working session of the Town Board** where the consultants from Diversified Technologies made a public **informational presentation on the park renovations and business district streetscape plans.**

The consultants gave a power point presentation and displayed the plans for both areas. Final field plans are ready and will soon go out to bid. Construction is planned to start in September. The multiuse field will be ready for use in April. The streetscape plans will be ready in June and will go out to bid in the fall. They had samples of the synthetic field carpet. There will be no dirt used, only tan colored turf. It has an excellent drainage system. Two million dollars is budgeted for the field. It will have permanent markings for multiple sports usage. Completely environmentally friendly inert material. (No lawn chemicals necessary which leak into the lake.) Curtain drains will surround the field. Lights and stations will be replaced.

There were many questions and suggestions from the floor. The consultants and mayor are very confident of the success of this system.

The island at Taylor Square will be expanded. Sidewalks in front of the businesses will go from 10 ft. to 14 ft. which will be more pedestrian friendly. Power lines will be consolidated. The parking lot will have no net lose. There will be a defined area in front of the fire house. The other side of street will have a 5 ft. sidewalk, curb planters, and a buffer area with benches. The road width stays the same. Trees and 8 ft. wide walking path in the mall area.

Discussion ensued about Verizon moving their main line across the street – it can't be done. The power lines can't go underground without costing the store owners a pretty sizeable expense. The walking path could be measured and posted through the island area near the gazebo.

**Respectfully Submitted, Angela Amodeo, Secretary
West Harrison Neighborhood Association
Senior Citizens Committee – Meeting 4/14/05**

Attendance: Richard Conrad, Nancy DeLeo, Mario Gallo, Ann Gauzenzi, Charles Russo, Rosemarie Verano

Absent: Angela Amodeo, Al Gaudenzi, Joan Walsh

The purpose of this meeting was to

- meet with the Senior Citizens at the Leo Mintzer Recreation Center to give a brief overview of the West Harrison Neighborhood Association (WHNA)
- to introduce the senior citizens committee members.

Rocco Troiano introduced the WHNA. Charles Russo gave a brief introduction of the WHNA, the subcommittees and what they are currently doing for the town, Phase plans for redevelopment of the park, etc.. He invited the senior citizens to attend the monthly WHNA meetings at the Fire House. Rocco will have membership forms available for anyone interested in joining after this meeting.

Rosemarie Verano introduced the senior citizen committee members. She gave a brief synopsis of the committees' concerns, plans, goals. She advised that Ann Gauzendi will be the liason for seniors to give their concerns to, and Ann will report them back to Rosemarie. The committee will return during October for a follow-up on what goals have been met, problems addressed, plans in the works.

Rosemarie, Mario & Charles briefly toured the lower level of the rec center. There is a large, multi-purpose game room with pool tables, an office, 2 storage rooms, and a room with commercial refrigerators. The use of these rooms will be discussed with the senior citizens committee members during our May meeting.

May meeting date will be announced.

West Harrison Neighborhood Association

Senior Citizens Committee – Meeting 5/16/05

(This is only a summary – the complete report can be provided by Ro Verano)

Met with Sia Tofano, Director of the White Plains Senior Center.
Toured the White Plains Senior Center facility.

Seniors pay a one-time, lifetime membership fee of \$3.00, where they receive a City of White Plains I.D. There is a Board of Directors (president, VP, secretary, treasurer) made up of seniors from the center. They meet monthly with the center administrators & members to assist in questions/problems with registration, transportation, senior shuttle service, services, programs, etc.

6- Paid Full Time Positions: Director, Assistant Director/Community Service Aide, Nutritionist, Office Assistant, Custodian/Driver/Maintenance, Aging Services Aid/Recreation program. 25 - Paid Part-time position 3 - Volunteer Part-time nutrition assistants; in addition to numerous seniors who volunteer their time throughout the day

The Westchester County Department of Senior Services is responsible for the senior meal program, which is subsidized by funding: 75% from County and 25% from City of White Plains (Recreation & Parks Department). The meals cost \$3.75 daily but the cost to the seniors to purchase the meal is only \$1.75 daily. The meals, supplied by the Greenburgh Regional Kitchens, meet the states nutritional guidelines.

The center is wheelchair and handicap accessible, with on-street meter parking. It is open 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. It covers 12,243 square feet with numerous multi-purpose activity rooms all on one floor including

The center offers daily on-site, coordinated activities too numerous to mention, off-site programs, day trips, overnight trips, and special monthly/seasonal events. Their transportation/supportive services are partially funded through the US Department of Health & Human Services, the NY State Office for the Aging, and the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services.

Recreation & Leisure Wellness: classes, trips, special programs, and events. Educational presentations, trips to museums, theatres, casinos and other places of interest. Parties & other celebrations

Health & Supportive Services: Senior Shuttle (wheelchair accessible) offers door-to-door transportation to/from center, the market (Galleria Mall, A&P, Farm Market, Stop & Shop, Pathmark, Turcos, seasonal-White Plains Outdoor Farm Market), doctors appointments. Visiting Nurse Services are on-site twice a month, "Are You OK" Program?"; Lunch & Learn health presentations; Medicare information updates; "Steps to Health Aging/Walking Program"; Osteoporosis Program/Screening with the Wellness Institute; Visiting Nurse of Westchester.

The center's on-site classes, clubs, programs include Arts & Crafts; Sewing, Fitting & Alterations, Ceramics, Knitting Corner , Creative Crafters , Grupo Social Hispano, Books & Bagels, Recipe of the Month , Computer Learning Center, Exercise, Dance, Games, etc.

Immediate Concerns:

- The future development of the Leo Mintzer Center to meet the needs of our seniors
- Financial/Town Board Assistance for a meals program beginning October, 2005
- Hiring of an on-site coordinator to plan daily activities, beginning September 2005

Plans:

- Work with Lori Wilson to plan a meeting with Councilman Joe Canella for assistance in working with the town board to put a proactive plan in place for a pilot program to begin in September/October 2005
- To get a good representation of what our mature adults want – obtain a census of adults 55+ residing in West Harrison and mail a survey to them

Goals:

- Address specific issues and concerns to the town board for improvement of the program and the center
- Pilot a day program similar to other successful senior center programs
- Work with the town to redevelop the Mintzer Center as a permanent, Senior Center Building

June meeting is Tuesday, June 21st, 12:00 noon, where will meet with Jean Jesoff, Director of the Rye Brook Senior Center and tour their facility.